

once connected to the Capitol by a special graded route. This roadway was significant in that it both physically tied the burial ground to a key center of government and also played an integral role in development of early expressions of national mourning and public memorialization of national and civic leaders.

Integrity:

- The character-defining features of Congressional Cemetery as the first national cemetery are fully evident, most particularly its gridded system of apportionment, which extends the city grid through the grounds; the ceremonial gateway and path; the public vault; and 168 congressional cenotaphs.
- The boundaries encompass the entire present cemetery, which correspond to the historical boundaries attained before the end of the period of significance. Much of the cemetery was developed after 1876; however, most of this development was in sections adjacent to the historic core. Although non-contributing because they date from outside the period of significance, the plots and monuments in these sections follow the historic gridded layout of the sections and plots and do not detract from the integrity of the cemetery.
- The past decade has seen a vigorous and very positive turnaround in the cemetery's physical preservation and interpretation.

Owner of Property: The cemetery is still owned by Christ Church Episcopal, Washington Parish, and presently leased and managed under a contract expiring in 2019 by the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery. Within the cemetery, the federal government (Veterans Administration) owns/manages 806 lots containing 350 interments marked with cenotaphs and traditional government headstones and markers.

Acreage of Property: Approximately 33 acres.

Origins of Nomination: The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery hired a consultant to prepare the NHL nomination.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation as an NHL will bring recognition to the first and only national cemetery until the creation of the National (military) Cemetery system following the Civil War, and one of the earliest federal landscapes constructed in the national capital.
- NHL status will assist the cemetery and its supporters in maintenance, preservation, and site interpretation.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Carson moved, Dr. Murtagh seconded; unanimous approval.

National Park System Advisory Board

Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 10/29/10):

Steve L. Muro, Acting, Department of Veterans Affairs, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs

Reverend Cara Spaccarelli, Rector, Christ Church & Washington Parish, Washington, DC
(owner)

Patrick Crowley, Chairman, Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional
Cemetery, Washington, DC

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, Director, “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band,
Washington, DC

Linda Donovan Harper, Executive Director and CEO, Cultural Tourism DC

Advisory Board Recommendation: